

Mr. Speaker, Byron has been active in local and regional government since he came to Palo Alto in 1957, and since then, he has repeatedly shown his commitment to the community through dedicated public service. He was a member of the Palo Alto City Council for 9 years and served two terms as mayor. In addition, for many years, Byron has been an active participant in local, State, and national environmental boards.

As a member of the California State Legislature, Byron has many notable achievements, however I wish to take a moment to mention some of the numerous legislative successes that Senator Sher has accomplished in the area of environmental protection. He is the author of landmark laws to protect California's environment, including the California Clean Air Act, the Integrated Waste Management Act, the Surface Mining Reclamation Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act and the nation's first law to prevent toxic contamination from leaking underground storage tanks. He also authored laws to strengthen California's timber regulations and added new rivers to California's Wild and Scenic River System, safeguarding them for future generations. He is consistently rated among the top legislators by the most respected environmental, consumer, law enforcement, education and housing groups. I applaud his conscientious hard work on the part of our community and California.

It is always a privilege to pay tribute to an extraordinary public servant on his retirement from a long and illustrious career of public service. What makes Byron so special though, is that this is his second such retirement from public service. After eight terms in the California Assembly he was term limited out of office. In 1996, however, he found a way to continue his service to the people of California, winning a special election to fill a vacancy in the State Senate. Now having exhausted almost every public office available, we on the Peninsula wait with excitement to learn how Byron will use his exceptional talents to continue to give back to our community and the nation at large.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Byron Sher as he completes a record of distinguished service in the California State legislature. The people of San Mateo County and the people of California have been well served by his extraordinary leadership and advocacy in both the State Assembly and the State Senate. I extend my personal best wishes to Byron and his family for a relaxing and well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote 6, H.R. 1385, to extend the provision of title 39, United States Code, under which the United States Postal Service is authorized to issue a special postage stamp to benefit breast cancer research and during rollcall vote 7, H.R. 3493, Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act, I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather. If I had been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 6 and 7.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF JOHN J. SEXTON

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. Early this morning, the people of Chicago lost a great friend in John J. Sexton who passed away after a long and difficult illness. John Sexton was a man who lived life to its fullest, and the friends and family he had are a testament to the quality of his character and the type of man he was.

John Sexton achieved his success in life through hard work and determination. He spent his life in public service and was dedicated to the people of Chicago, rising through the ranks with the City, from machinist, to foreman, to Assistant Superintendent of the Meter Division of the City's Water Department, and finally Superintendent of the Meter Division. His dedication to his job and the city he loved is an example of why Chicago is known as "The City That Works."

But, it was John's connection to and involvement in his community that John's friends will remember. John loved the northwest side of Chicago, his home for his entire life. John raised his family in the Hiawatha Park neighborhood where he was very active as president of the Hiawatha Boys Baseball Organization.

As church life plays such an important role in the lives of so many Chicagoans, John was a member of several esteemed Northwest side parishes. He grew up in Presentation Parish, attended grammar school at St. Angela's and high school at St. Michael's. As an adult he was a member of St. Francis Borgia Parish.

The Northwest side has produced some of Chicago's finest leaders, and John Sexton played an active part in the success of many of their careers. John's passion for politics began at 16, working as a precinct worker for former Alderman Thomas Casey. As a precinct captain in the mighty 36th Ward Regular Democratic Organization, John became a close confidant and friend to many elected officials, especially Alderman William J.P. Banks and State Senator James A. DeLeo.

John's top priority was always his family, and the love and support they provided him was the most important thing in his life. For 31 years he was married to his wonderful wife, Rosetta. Their family also includes their daughter, Laurie Moran, and her husband Joseph, their son, John Jr., their daughter, Diana, and John's sister, Mary Kay Kuhter.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the people of Chicago in mourning John Sexton, a man I was proud to call a friend. May God bless the Sexton family and the memory of a man who was truly loved by his friends, his community and his family.

HONORING THE LEBANON-WILSON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th anniversary of the Leb-

anon-Wilson County Chamber of Commerce, an organization that has helped that Middle Tennessee community be one of the most desirable places in America to live.

The chamber can take a lot of credit for the quality of life enjoyed in Wilson County. Residents have an opportunity to work at good jobs, send their children to quality schools and experience a wide variety of recreational venues, including a new \$125 million super-speedway that draws racing fans from all over the country. The chamber's advocacy for the business community and its economic development efforts have definitely paid big dividends to the county.

Chartered in September 1924, the Chamber of Commerce is fortunate to have had so many active, visionary members in its ranks. They have been instrumental in helping strengthen the county's diverse economy, including the retail, distribution and industrial base. Chamber leaders have helped attract many top-notch companies to the area. Dell computers, for example, employs approximately 1,400 people at its Wilson County assembly facility.

The Lebanon-Wilson County Chamber of Commerce has become one of the premier community advocates in the nation and has helped boost the area's quality of life in so many ways. As the chamber celebrates its 80 years of existence, I commend the organization for all it has done to make Wilson County such a desirable place to live and raise a family.

UNEMPLOYMENT EXTENSION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give voice to millions of unemployed American workers. The citizens I speak of are the very people who keep the United States of America open for business each day. However as we are gathered here today, these people are, desperately searching for work so that they may provide food for their families, keep a roof over their heads, and save money to send their children to college and one day enjoy a well-deserved retirement. In December we failed to aid these people by not extending the benefits provided under Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) for millions of unemployed citizens, we now have the chance to succeed where we failed before.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of these Americans, who are our constituents, our neighbors, and the people who have entrusted us with the care of our nation, it is essential that we renew their unemployment benefits, and it is essential that we do it now. At the close of last year we failed to renew these benefits under TEUC for as many as 450,000 unemployed workers and instead of families spending quality time with each other, exchanging gifts, and rejoicing in the new year, the bottoms of Christmas trees were left bare and the countdown to the New Year was a time for fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters to hope 2004 might be better. Middle class Americans cannot sustain the American dream while not receiving any income for three or four months, or even longer. We owe them this

continued assistance until this economy can provide them with jobs they desperately want again.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress must make the plight of middle class America its number one concern. Without the temporary extension of unemployment benefits under TEUC, Americans will continue to struggle to pay the bills in this still-weak job market. By extending the unemployment benefits for an additional six months, it will grant more time for unemployed Americans to find new jobs. While experts could explain various aspects about the business and economic cycles and how companies will begin hiring again in the future, this does not solve the present problem of how bread winners are going to pay bills and how food is going to get into the stomachs of children so that when they go to school, their day is spent learning and not focusing on the pain in their gut.

Mr. Speaker, to this end I submit that we not hesitate in renewing unemployment benefits and spend the taxpayers dollars on the soundest investment of all, the American worker. Its long past time that these unemployed workers get the benefits they deserve and time for us as a Congress to vote to restore the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation program.

TRIBUTE TO KATHY CLONINGER

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, as co-leader of the Honorary Congressional Girl Scout Troop, I am pleased to congratulate Kathy Cloninger, who has recently been named as Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of the USA. Under Kathy's leadership, Girl Scouts of the USA will truly become the preeminent organization advocating for America's girls.

As a former Girl Scout I know first hand the difference that scouting can make in a girl's life. More than 3 million girls look to Girl Scouts of the USA to help them grow into talented, successful young women.

As a former businesswoman, I also know first hand the difference that the leader of an organization can make. As co-leader of Troop Capitol Hill, I look forward to working closely with Kathy Cloninger. Her vision for Girl Scouting is inspiring.

Under Kathy's leadership, Girl Scouts of the USA will complete their transition from the Girl Scouts that I knew, to the Girl Scouts that is now rising to the challenge of addressing the needs of contemporary girls with contemporary issues. From Girl Scouts Beyond Bars to troops in public housing communities, as I tell my daughter, this is not your mother's Girl Scouts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Kathy Cloninger in her new position and wish her the best of luck.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 6 and 7 on Tuesday, January 27, 2004, I was unable to cast my vote due to inclement weather, being detained Charleston International Airport with multiple day-long delays and cancellations.

Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

Rollcall 6, to extend the provision of title 39, United States Code, under which the United States Postal Service is authorized to issue a special postage stamp to benefit breast cancer research, I would have voted "yea".

Rollcall 7, Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act, I would have voted "yea".

THE EUROPEAN POPULATION FORUM 2004

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the global community, particularly the poorest countries of the world, face significant problems in the area of reproductive health and family planning. A critical shortage of international funding for family planning exacerbates severe threats to maternal and child health. To examine current population developments, the European Population Forum 2004 was held January 12-14, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Population Fund. I encourage members of this body to take note of the following statement written by Werner Fornos, president of the Population Institute and recipient of the 2003 United Nations Population Award. The following article, which appeared in the International Herald Tribune on January 14, 2004, sheds light on the dangerous and false belief that population growth is no longer the global concern it was a decade ago.

[From the International Herald Tribune, Jan. 14, 2004]

A GLOBAL CONCERN

A POPULATION CRISIS STILL LOOMS

(By Werner Fornos)

As the European Population Forum in Geneva draws to a close, coming to grips with high fertility rates remains a daunting international challenge, particularly in the poorest countries of the world where population growth continues to outstrip resources, place pressure on the environment, and exacerbate social disintegration. Despite encouraging recent reports from the United Nations, human growth remains an issue that requires priority attention around the globe if there is to be realistic hope for achieving sustainable development.

Only 3 years ago, the United Nations estimated that by mid-century the planet's human population would have risen from about 6.2 billion to 9.3 billion. More recent figures project the 2050 population to be 400 million less than the previous estimate. When the numbers are examined more closely, however, we find that the population of the industrialized countries is estimated to

remain constant through 2050 at about 1.2 billion. Virtually all human growth will occur in the developing world, where the population is expected to increase from the current 5.1 billion people to 7.7 billion.

Considering that developing countries bear the brunt of the earth's grinding poverty, desperate hunger, disease, illiteracy and unemployment, the recent downward revision of demographic figures does not warrant celebration. In fact, some developing countries, including Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Somalia, and Yemen, are likely to quadruple their population by mid-century.

Over the past 40 to 45 years, the world's population has doubled. But annual population growth has been decreasing since the 1990's, from a high approaching 90 million to less than 80 million. These declines have spawned a pervasive myth that population growth is no longer a matter of global magnitude—a myth that is spread, unsurprisingly, by the same crowd that 10, 15, and 20 years earlier insisted that population growth was never a problem in the first place: religious extremists and reactionary political ideologues.

The irony of the myth is that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development. That meeting, in Cairo, established important quantitative goals for the next 20 years, including efforts to ensure that every pregnancy is intended; to protect women from unsafe abortion; to promote education for all and to close the gender gap in education; to combat AIDS; and to bring women into the mainstream of development.

A key concern, however, is that expenditures for implementing family planning and reproductive health programs have fallen well short of the \$17 billion that the Cairo meeting estimated would be required by 2000.

Industrialized countries were expected to come up with one-third of that total, or \$5.7 billion, but by 2001 had contributed only \$2.5 billion. Developing countries and private sources, expected to spend \$11.3 billion on population activities by 2000 had contributed only \$7 billion by 2001.

Global goals for drastically reducing poverty, maternal and child mortality, illiteracy and hunger will be mere wishful thinking unless and until population growth is substantially lowered. For this to happen, the international community must clearly understand that to achieve an improved quality of life for all, now is the time to accelerate population stabilization efforts, rather than retreat from them.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONALD A. DUFF

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Donald A. Duff, of Salt Lake City, who is retired after forty-three years of Federal service on January 2, 2004. His abiding love of this country began at the age of seventeen during his service as a seasonal postal carrier in northwest Washington, DC.

In 1959, Mr. Duff enlisted in the United States Air Force, following in the footsteps of relatives who have served this nation in every conflict since the Revolutionary War. He also comes from a long line of relatives with close ties to our capital city including a great-great-grandfather who assisted Pierre L'Enfant in laying out the streets of Georgetown and a